

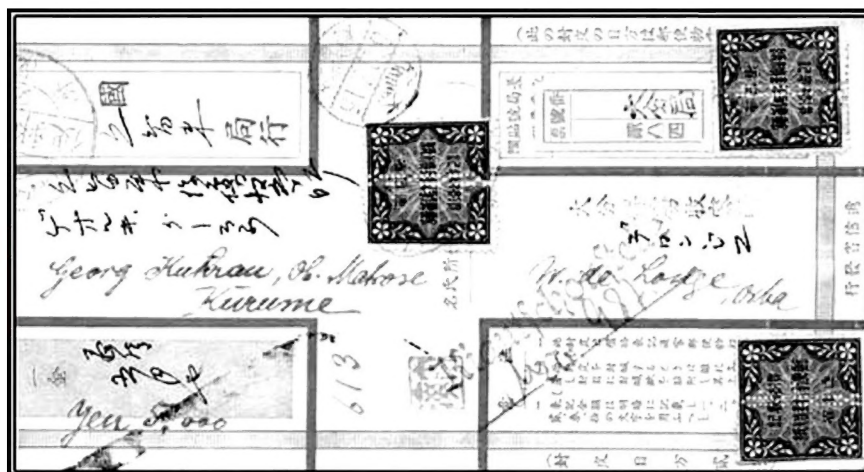
Two Auction Lots of Special Interest

Eidted from a note by Christian Rüger (#1834)

Immediately below is shown a cover that was advertised in the 30th auction of Inter Briefmarken Bourse – Postdamer Philatelisches Buro GmbH in Berlin. This item is described as:- Lot “1343 - DEUTSCHE AUSLANDSPOSTÄMTER / KOLONIEN Kiautschou -1915, Brief eines Obermatrosen im Lager Kurume mit R-Zettel und Wertangabe 500 Yen, L2 "Kiautschoustelle Nr.", Prach - 60,-“ I am going to try my (very limited) German here – please excuse any potentially embarrassing mistakes. “Lot 1343 – German post-office abroad / Kiauchau [or Kiautschou per Scott’s]

Colony – 1915 Senior sailor in the camp (?Kurume) with seldom seen label and value declaration 500 Yen, L2 ‘Kiauschau Nr.’ Splendid – 60.” [my presumption is an estimated value of 60€].

Of most interest is the apparent perfin in the three stamps on this cover. To the right of the cover illustration are reproduced (through the magic of Photoshop – so they may not be perfect!) the three apparent patterns (probably the same pattern with variation on individual stamps).



Stamp in center

Stamp in UR

Stamp in LR

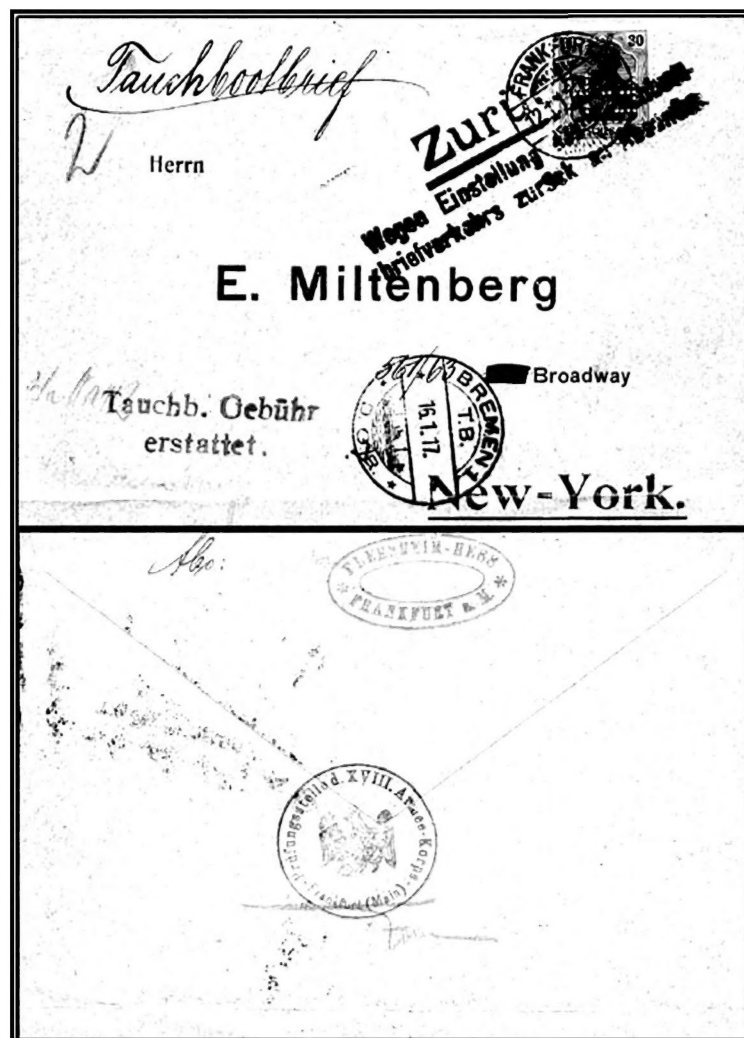
So, what is this cover? Are the stamps truly perfins? (I can't locate an apparent 'chain' pattern of this type in my literature). Anyone familiar with this material – please write to let me know what I am looking at.

And a second lot in the same auction is described as: “Lot 107 - Die Tauchbootpost 1916/17 - 3.Allgemeiner Postdienst - Militärische deutsche Zensur (Für einige vertrauenswürdige Firmen wurde eine Vorzensur in der Heimatregion eingerichtet): 30 Pfg. Germania (mit Firmenlochung, Bedarfsfehler)

als EF auf Brief der 2. Gewichtsstufe von FRANKFURT/M. 12.1.17 nach USA, rs. Zensurstempel der 'Prüfungsstelle d. XVIII. Armee-Korps Frankfurt (Main)', trotzdem nochmals in Bremen zensiert mit seltenerem Zensurstempel 'X', dazu vs. guter L2 'Tauchb. gebühr erstattet', ungewöhnlicher Beleg. - DR89 - 300,-“ And, I'll try again... "Lot 107 - Submarine-post 1916/17. - 3. General postal service – German military censor (for several trusted companies censorship was arranged outside of their home region): 30 pf Germania (with perfin, beautiful)? EF on a letter of the 2. overweight from Frankfurt/Main January 12, 1917 to the USA, reverse side censor stamp "Censor group of the XVIII army-Corps Frankfurt (Main)", nevertheless it was again censored in Bremen and marked with the rarely seen censor mark "X", at the same time it was marked with a good 2 line "Submarine fee paid", an unusual piece DR89 300,-“

Specific markings on the front of the cover not represented in the description include the manuscript 'Tauchbootbrief' (Submarine letter), the three line Zur U-***//Wegen Einstellung ***// *** briefverkehr zur (loosely - By U-?//explanation of return//this postal service no longer available). But, on the back is a handstamp that confirms (for us perfin collectors) the user reported for German pattern 1.FH.16 'F-H'. In the double-lined oval at the top of the top of the obverse we find 'Flersheim – Hess// * Frankfurt * M*'. What does not show in the B&W illustration is the color of this cover. On the front the three line "Zur..." is in a dark blue, the 'Tauchb....' is handstamped in a bright magenta, and the rest of the information is in black. On the back the two markings (the return address stamp and the censorship mark) are in different shades of purple. And the envelope itself is a rich (if slightly stained) buff color.

And this is where my limited knowledge and speculation ends. This cover raises many questions for me. First – have I transliterated the markings correctly (especially but not limited to where I have italicized words in my attempted translation)? I also would love to know what was in the letter – was it personal or business? I would also like to know how the U-boat mail worked and where the mail was moved after being on it (I don't think that during the last months of World War I that a U-boat would have been permitted in New York harbor to deliver the mail!) So, just what service was being requested by the sender?



In Color

ANY help y'all can give with either of these covers would be greatly appreciated. Both contain lots of information I haven't been able to decode And both appear to have very interesting stories still to tell.

Private Auction #6
Running through January 15
Contact Bob Szymanski for the listing of lots